What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing self-installing software components for network service execution, comprising:

a basic communication framework established with a service host system executing a network service software component to provide a network service;

a checking mechanism to determine availability of the network service software component and to verify prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system; and

a helper mechanism to execute a code bundle providing the network service software component through the service host system logically grouped with installation instructions for the network service software component.

2. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a set of well-known methods provided through a public interface defined on the network service software component.

3. A system according to Claim 2, wherein the well-known methods are selected from the group comprising at least one of an availability method, environment verification method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

4. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the network service software component is updated through the service host system.

5. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an installation predicate object defined on the service host system to verify that the runtime environment satisfies prerequisites necessary to install and execute the network service software component.

6. A system according to Claim 5, wherein the installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

7. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a helper object defined on the service host system to locate and obtain copies of one or more of the network service software components necessary to satisfy one or more of the prerequisites.

8. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

9. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an update object defined on the service host system to identify, retrieve and install any updates to the network service software component.

10. A system according to Claim 9, wherein the update object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

11. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the network service software component in the code bundle is implemented to offer functionality substantially equivalent to the network service provided by the service host system.

12. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the network service software component in the code bundle is implemented to offer functionality differing from the network service provided by the service host system.

13. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the basic communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

14. A method for providing self-installing software components for network service execution, comprising:

establishing a basic communication framework with a service host system executing a network service software component to provide a network service;

determining availability of the network service software component and verifying prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system; and

executing a code bundle providing the network service software component through the service host system logically grouped with installation instructions for the network service software component.

15. A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

specifying a set of well-known methods provided through a public interface defined on the network service software component.

16. A method according to Claim 15, further comprising:

defining the well-known methods selected from the group comprising at least one of an availability method, environment verification method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

17. A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

updating the network service software component through the service host system.

18. A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

defining an installation predicate object on the service host system to verify that the runtime environment satisfies prerequisites necessary to install and execute the network service software component.

19. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

20. A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

defining a helper object on the service host system to locate and obtain copies of one or more of the network service software components necessary to satisfy one or more of the prerequisites.

21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein the helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

22. A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

defining an update object on the service host system to identify, retrieve and install any updates to the network service software component.

23. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the update object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

24. A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

implementing the network service software component in the code bundle to offer functionality substantially equivalent to the network service provided by the service host system.

25. A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

implementing the network service software component in the code bundle to offer functionality differing from the network service provided by the service host system.

26. A method according to Claim 14, wherein the basic communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

27. A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing the method according to Claim 14.

28. An apparatus for providing self-installing software components for network service execution, comprising:

means for establishing a basic communication framework with a service host system executing a network service software component to provide a network service;

means for determining availability of the network service software component and means for verifying prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system; and

means for executing a code bundle providing the network service software component through the service host system logically grouped with installation instructions for the network service software component.